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Contact: 97-53  
Jay Ziegler  
Kirsten Powers  
Christine Wilkas  
(202) 395-3230

**U.S. SUPPORTS WTO DECISION ON BALANCE  
OF PAYMENTS PROVISIONS REGARDING INDIA**

The United States supports the June 11 decision by the WTO Committee on Balance of Payments to suspend negotiations until June 30 to bring India into compliance with its WTO obligations. Commenting on the discussions to date, U.S. Trade Representative Barshefsky said, "India has made important progress in the past 5-6 years in liberalizing its import regime. However, the job will be incomplete until the remaining import barriers covering over 2700 import items, that are no longer WTO-justified, are eliminated."

In January 1997, the WTO Committee found, based in part on the views of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), that India's trade barriers did meet WTO standards for so-called balance of payments trade barriers because India does not have a balance of payments problem. India was given until June 11 to propose how to remove these barriers, but a number of countries objected. The U.S. supports the two week suspension to provide India the opportunity to reflect further upon its current proposal to phase out its import restrictions that have been notified under the WTO Balance of Payments provisions.